

SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

DEFINITION: Under general direction, performs work of considerable difficulty in rendering technical expertise on environmental related issues that are of significant complexity; some positions are engaged in one or more environmental protection programs as they relate to funding, planning, enforcement and controlling of environmental activities across the Navajo Nation; performs related work as assigned.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS: This list is ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY and is not a comprehensive listing of all functions and tasks performed by incumbents of this class.

TASKS:

Serves as a lead expert on a wide variety of diverse and complex environmental issues; develops strategies that safeguards the Nation's environment; develops and adopts strategies that addresses many environmental concerns of the Nation, such as air and water quality, hazardous waste, underground storage tanks, oil and hazardous substance spills and dumping, pollutants, etc.; reviews and prepares environmental clearance reports prior to any proposed construction; recommends approval or disapproval of permits.

Participates in the development, review and implementation of legislated proposals, regulations, policies and operating guidance on the Nation's environment; participates in overseeing and coordinating environmental activities funded by grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, or other similar arrangements; seeks grant and/or other funding sources; develops and forwards grant proposals; conducts policy related research pertaining to respective assigned program unit; reviews and interprets technical environmental reports, laws, regulations and makes recommendations.

Initiates corrective environmental action based on assessments and investigations conducted; where violations have occurred, determines level of enforcement action; considers evidence of non-compliance cases; applies judgment and determines most reasonable approach to gain compliance with established rules and regulations; provides advice and assistance to government communities and business establishments across the Nation in complying with legislated laws and regulations of the Navajo Nation, state and federal environmental agencies.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS:

Knowledge of applicable Navajo Nation, state and federal statutes, rules, regulations and directives as it relates to funding, planning, enforcement, control and monitoring of the Nation's environmental programs and/or activities.

Knowledge of coordinating several distinct environmental programs to sufficiently provide advisory, guidance, direction, assessment and problem solving services.

Knowledge of environmental sciences, such as ecology, biology, hydrology, radiation, etc.; sufficient to gather data to determine most reasonable approach to gain compliance.

Skill in investigating and assessing non-compliance cases and determining appropriate level of enforcement action.

Skill in interpreting and applying numerous environmental statutes, rules and regulations.

Skill in undertaking scientific field investigations and research.

Skill in operating a personal computer utilizing a variety of software applications.

Skill in establishing and maintaining effective and cooperative working relationships.

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PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT: Work requires the ability to work out- doors in varying weather conditions. Walking over long distances, carrying heavy, bulky equipment and other items, climbing ladders or into trenches may be required. There is the risk of potential exposure to harmful chemicals, pesticides, noxious fumes and other hazards.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A Bachelor's degree in Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, or a closely related field; and two (2) years of experience working with environmental programs and/or projects.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- A Master's degree in Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, or a closely related field.
- Two (2) years of responsible experience working in an environmental program, environmental/occupational health or related program conducting environmental monitoring, research or permitting.
- One (1) year of experience using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) equipment.
- 40 Hour or 24 Hour HAZWOPER (OSHA 1910.120) training.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Possess a valid state driver's license.

Depending upon the needs of the Nation, some incumbents of this class may be required to demonstrate fluency in both the Navajo and English languages as a condition of employment.